

Thursday

19 February

My Dearest Mother,

We've just about reached our destination, and as I look at our huge map, it seems incredible that we are so far from Oklahoma City. When you look at it from the top of a "world" - we're almost half-way around it! Remember that old say "Start digging and soon you'll be in China" - I can believe it. We left Yokosuka

Monday at 4 P.M. and
have had such a calm
voyage that we can
hardly believe we're mov-
ing, especially after the
trip from Honolulu to
Japan! Mother, Japan is
just like I had always
thought it would be. I had
read so many things about
it - before and after the
war, and have seen so
many good color slides
of it - slides taken by
navy people who had just
come back - that it

didn't seem the least bit
strange to me. The Buddha
- with its huge, life-like ruby
eyes was just as I had al-
ways pictured it - the temple
with their graceful curved
roofs, the rice paddies,
the people themselves hurry-
ing along in their funny
little shoes along their
funny little streets, seemed
to step right out of the
pages of those books I
used to read - like "The
Japanese Servants at Home"
- or "at school" - Tenmem.

but these grade school books
— the "twins of every
nation" series? My, they
used to fascinate me. The
little children are just
precious — they look like
colorful little toys all
bundled up in their
kimonos and caps, or
peering out over the edge
of the blanket that wraps
them and holds them to
their mother's back. For some
strange reason — they have
a different appearance than
our Indians have when
they carry their babies on

their backs - They look less
bulky I think it is.

We went through the
Channels at the southern
end of Japan Tuesday morn-
ing and there were small
fishing towns on either
side, with all their sam-
pans, etc. out in the Bay.
It is so terribly cold out
here, and those little towns
looked even colder. Here
and there, you could
see a wisp of smoke coming
from a house, but other
than that - no sign of
life was visible. The condi-
tions in Yokohama, Yoko-

Kama and Tokyo looked
unbearable to me because
there was no evidence of
heating systems in the
shops and homes. However
the people - natives - didn't
seem to mind. They dress
for winter practically at
the start of the season - and
they dressed that way night
and day. There was one
striking aspect of that way
of living and that is that
they are scrupulously clean.
They have their daily
washings outside every
house. They use a cane

pole and hang their clothes
on ^{that} like shirts, pants, etc.
- The pole is run through
a sleeve or pant leg.

We sailed into the
Yellow Sea sometime this
morning after all day
and all night sailing
across the Japan Straits
which are ~~the~~ the entrance
to the Japan Sea. - This
sea is appropriately named
- it has a definite yellow
tinge to it. - sort of remind
me of some muddy
river - or Lake Ocholsaer.
- There were big

whistles. We're cutting
down our steam "all
engines back $\frac{1}{3}$ " etc.

Duchow is just ahead
of us. You have never
seen such barren, god-
forsaken-looking country
in all your life, I'm
sure. I was just out
on deck for a few minutes
and although the sun
is shining brightly, it
is biting cold and
things look more deso-
late the closer we get.
Life aboard goes on as
usual. In fact - my

Corpsmen are playing
hearts on the treatment
table - I just played a
hand with them! The
boys in the next ward
are playing snookle
- record players are
going - everyone seems
happy and unconcerned,
including me. - "So we're
in Incheon, Korea" - it doesn't
worry us that we are
here with one of ^{our} sister
ships (the Consolation is
here) or that we will get
patients from our "cousin"
- the Danish Hospital Ship

"Jutlandia" - what really
gets us as we look at
those bare, cold moun-
tains, is that our friends
are out there. - That really
hurts. - All the boys have
cousin friends, and
3 of the boys I trained
are here - someplace. I
hope they are warm,
but I don't know how
they can be. We're going
ashore tomorrow if it
isn't too cold. I want
to check with Hq. and
find out where my Boys

are. They're going to fly
up to Seoul in March
I hope - Helicopter
pilots are going to take
us up to the Medical
Companies Able and Baker
but don't worry, they're
about 3 or 4 miles behind
the front lines. We're
hoping to go there in a
week or so. Maybe I'll
see the kids then. I've
got some cheeses and candy
what I got in Yokosuka
for them. - Well - we
just got the "Secure
Special Sea and Anchor

Detail and Set the Watch
at the Quarterdeck, S' Bd
Side of the ship " - so we're
here. Our anchor is dropped
and we're ready for busi-
ness, which I hope, for
the Boys' sakes, is light.
We're getting 75 ROK
patients from the Gutlandia
tomorrow since they are
going to Yokosuka tomorrow
pm. for R + R (rest + rec-
reation) - I hope I haven't
missed the mail with
this lengthy letter. Other-
wise it won't go out 'til
the "Big J" leaves. Bye for now
your daughter